

BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

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Volume 35 No. 1 • Published Bimonthly

FFEBRUARY 2004

NWS AWARDS:
Volunteers Receive National Weather Service Awards
By Peggy K., Secretary, Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association (MASA).

Representatives from the Milwaukee-Sullivan and Green Bay National Weather Service (NWS) offices recently presented their distinguished "Public Service Awards" to area individuals this past week in recognition of their superb and long term volunteer contributions to the NWS mission of saving lives and preventing property damage. Three separate ceremonies were performed.

On December 4th, in Madison, at the Wisconsin Emergency Management center, awards to Tom Fleming (N9SZF) for his outstanding contributions in development and the implementation of the amateur radio based "Sullivan Committee," and to George Hrabovsky for his outstanding contributions with the Dane County mobile storm spotters and his on-line webpage development of advanced weather spotter training.

On December 5th, in Green Bay, an award to Christian Reynolds (KC0ARF) for his outstanding contributions to the Milwaukee NWS amateur

radio program in the development and maintenance of the Sullivan Committee webpage.

On December 11th, in Milwaukee, at the Milwaukee County safety building, awards to Skip Voros (WD9HAS) and Rick Swierczynski (N9TPY) of the Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association for their outstanding contributions in Skywarn webpage development, annual 6 hour weather presentations, and spotter forums via educational, scientific, and community outreach. To David Barquist (K9PAK) for outstanding contributions and donations of radio equipment and expert electronic and technical support. To John Leekley (WB9SMM) for outstanding contributions in the development of and reorganization of radio communications between radio clubs and the National Weather Service. To Tom Kucharski (KA9EWJ) for his outstanding contributions and refinement of the net control and winter skywarn program associated with the weather service amateur radio program at Sullivan.



The Milwaukee Crew. (L-R):
Dave Barquist(K9PAK), Skip Voros (WD9HAS), (President Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association), John Leekley (WB9SMM), (Milwaukee County Amateur Radio Emergency Services), David Clark (Milwaukee County Sheriff), Tom Kucharski (KA9EWJ), (Emergency Coordinator, Milwaukee/Sullivan Weather Forecast Office), Rusty Kapela, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Ken Rizzo, Meteorologist-In-Charge of the Milwaukee-Sullivan National Weather Service (NWS), Rick Swierczynski (N9TPY), (V-P Milwaukee Skywarn), Carl Stenbol, (Milwaukee County emergency Management director).
(submitted photo)

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Check us out on the web at
[Http://www.bsas.org](http://www.bsas.org)



WHAT’S HAPPENING

Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

January 25, 2004, Wheaton Hamfest. Pheasant Run Mega Center, 4051 E Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. Contact www.wheatonhamfest.org

March 14, 2004, Wisconsin QSO Party.
Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateurs Club. For information contact: WARAC, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1072 or www.warac.org (see page 3 for more information)

March 21, 2004, Jefferson, WI
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, Hwy 18 West, Jefferson, WI. For information contact: TCARC, 213 Frederick St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538, www.cmdline.com/tcarc/, jsatt@ticon.net or (920) 563-6381 (evenings), (200 563-9551 (fax) see flyer on page 8 for more information.

April 2 & 3, 2004, AES SUPERFEST, April 02 2004, 2pm to 7pm. April 03 2004, 9am to 3pm Amateur Electronic Supply, Milwaukee, WI contact: aesham.com

April 18, 2004, Madison Area Repeater Association Swapfest, Stoughton, WI. See flyer on page 9 for more information.

April 25, 2004. SEWFARS at Richfield Chalet, 1271 Hwy. 175, Hubertus WI. For information contact: SEWFARS, PO Box 105, Eagle, WI 53119, sewfars@hotmail.com or (262) 742-4903

May 01, 2004, Cedarburg, WI. 26th Annual Amateur Radio and Computer Swapfest, Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC). Circle B Recreation Center, intersection of State Highway 60 and Ozaukee County Highway I. Info: Gene Szudrowitz, (262) 377-3792 between 6:00 and *:00 pm or www.qsl.net/orc/swap.html.

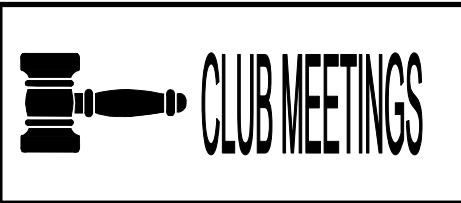
July 10, 2004. South Milwaukee Swapfest '04. 9327 South Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Contact: (414) 762-3235. e-mail: ryatex@aol.com

August 14, 2004 Circus City Swapfest, Baraboo, WI.

August 15, 2004. Summerfest 2004, Amana, IA. Information: Darrel Peterson, WA0KHH, 7421 commune Ct. Cedar Rapids, IA 52411. (319) 393-8667. www.cvarc.rf.org

September 11, 2004. Eau Claire ARC Swapfest, Eau Claire, WI

September 17-18-19, 2004. Peoria Superfest, Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds, 1601 W Northmoor Rd, off N. University, Peoria, IL. Contact: Peoria Superfest, PO Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3508. (309) 692-2378. e-mail: w9uvi@arrl.net. <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>.



We are unable to include the full listing of club meetings in The Wisconsin area in every printed edition of BSSS. Please see the October 2003 issue of BSSS for the full listing of club meetings in the area. A full listing

is also on the extra web pages this issue, and also on our web site bsss.org If there are any changes or corrections please let Ken K9EN know. See the addresses below.

The following additions and corrections have been received since the last full listing:

Fort Atkinson
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

February 07, 2004	Madison, WI
February 07, 2004	Racine, WI
February 07, 2004	St. Paul, MN
February 09, 2004	Menomonie, WI
February 12, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
February 14 2004	Blaine, MN
February 14, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 17, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
February 21. 2004	Milwaukee, WI (BE)

February 21, 2004	Loves Park, IL
February 21, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
February 28, 2004	Bloomington, MN
February 28, 2004.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 28, 2004.	Tomahawk, WI
April 03, 2004	Madison, WI
March 06, 2004	Madison, WI
March 06, 2004	Racine, WI
March 06, 2004	St. Paul, MN
March 11, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
March 13, 2004	Blaine, MN
March 13, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 15, 2004	Menomonie, WI
March 16, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
March 20, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 20, 2004	Loves Park, IL
March 20, 2004	Menomonie, WI
March 20, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
March 27, 2004	Bloomington, MN
March 27, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
April 03, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 03, 2004	Racine, WI
April 03, 2004	St. Paul, MN
April 08, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
April 10, 2004	Blaine, MN
April 10, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 12, 2004	Menomonie, WI
April 17, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 17, 2004	Loves Park, IL
April 17, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
April 20, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
April 24, 2004	Bloomington, MN
April 24, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 24, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
May 01, 2004	Madison, WI
May 01, 2004	Racine, WI
May 01, 2004	St. Paul, MN
May 08, 2004	Blaine, MN
May 08, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
May 13, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
May 15, 2004	Loves Park, IL
May 15, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
May 18, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
May 22, 2004	Bloomington, MN
May 29, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 29, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
June 05, 2004	Madison, WI
June 05, 2004	Racine, WI
June 05, 2004	St. Paul, MN
June 12, 2004	Blaine, MN
June 12, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
June 15, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
June 16, 2004.	Bloomington, MN
June 17, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
June 19, 2004	Loves Park, IL
June 19, 2004.	Cottage Grove, MN
June 26, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
November 06, 2004	Menomonie, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except Jan., Jul., & Aug.)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
(September through April)	
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.)	

(Continued on page 3)

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly)\$13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month before the issue date. For example, the closing date for the May issue is April 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to n9qa@arrl.net (Dave Knaus, N9QA).

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN no later than eight weeks before the

events date.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

(Continued from page 2)

Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walkins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A Hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html
or
ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2004 test fee at \$12.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to carry the full listing sites, directions and contact information in every printed edition. Please see the December 2003 issue of BSSS for additional information on test sites. Information is also in the web only extra pages for this issue, and on our web site bsss.org.

The following are corrections and changes received since the December issue of BSSS:

Feb 9, March 15, April 12, 2004
Menomonie WI
University of Wisconsin-Stout Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.uwsarc.org>) is sponsoring (W5YI-VEC affiliated) Amateur Radio licensing exams. Location: 213 Fryklund Hall, UW-Stout Campus, Menomonie WI. Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm (Walk-ins welcomed) For further information contact:, John Burningham (WB8PUF), 715-232-5610

FAR SCHOLARSHIPS

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-nine (59) scholarships for the academic year 2004 - 2005 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-two (52) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their World Wide Web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2004 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Universal Licensing System interface

ARLB071 FCC announces new Universal Licensing System interface

The FCC on December 14 will unveil a new on-line filing interface for its Universal Licensing System (ULS), on the web at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, which includes the Amateur Service.

To implement the changes, the ULS on-line filing system will be down from 12 AM EST Saturday, December 13, until 10 AM EST Sunday, December 14.

Among other features, the ULS's new look will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

(Continued on page 7)

WISCONSIN QSO PARTY 2004

What an exciting time. Retirement has happened for me and I am starting to enjoy it. In the short time since I left employment, I have been working on the Wisconsin QSO Party (WIQP), in an attempt to find a way to allow for electronic entries, which has been one of my two goals for WIQP. The second goal is to learn how to do some programming, to maybe allow the computer to even do the scoring portion of the data work involved with WIQP each year. To accomplish those goals, I soon realized that there needed to be a "standard" way of log submission.

After lots of research, that "standard" seems to have jumped right out at me. I noted that a few years back ARRL decided to look at a method of standardizing on data entry formats for their contests, in response to the proliferation of file formats being used. Their standard is based on an 80 column page, that basically defines the specific use for each of those 80 columns, in a simple text format. This would allow entries to be easily submitted by any computer, and could be opened by any computer. It would also allow the receiving computer to process data in a uniform manner, as the computer would know exactly where each piece of information could be found. That standard was Cabrillo. We are going use a Cabrillo format we are calling " WARAC Cabrillo format."

Our WARAC Cabillo format is in template form. It will present the data as a layout on an 80 column page, sort of like what I am showing below as an example:

```
--- info sent ----- info rcvd -----
QSO: freq mo date time call rst exch call rst exch
QSO: ***** ** yyyy-mm-dd nnnn ***** nnn ***** nnn *****

QSO: 7125 PH 2003-03-09 1701 K9KR RAC N9FH OZA
```

Below in this issue, there is an exact copy of the template, or visit our club website "www.warac.org" to see it, or contact me and I will get a copy to you. As part of the template, I have included a number of examples, that cover all the operating situations I know of. This template should allow for software programmers to provide an output in WARAC Cabrillo in a future upgrade.

Speaking of programs, our suggested N3FJP WIQP logging program has been modified by Scott to output the data in the WARAC Cabrillo format. It is exciting to have a logging program available for everyone to use at a very modest price - the download of his recently upgraded version is still only \$6. His latest version of WIQP has improved the user friendliness of the program. Besides that, I think it will finally allow the mobile operators to have one program that they can use as they change counties, as it allows for a totally chronological log while allowing the user to use either our 3 letter county abbreviations OR the full county name. I suspect most will use the full county name as it eliminates the problem of trying to remember the right abbreviation (I have found that to be more of a problem as I grow older). Scott has even provided the conversion from the full county names to the 3 letter abbreviation when he outputs the data for our use in processing the logs. For those who are interested in Scott's program, see "www.n3fjp.com" I am also planning on posting a small write-up on the N3FJP WIQP program on our club website, to help the users become familiar with it.

Oh yes, before I forget, the 2004 Wisconsin QSO Party is happening Sunday, March 14, 2004, starting at noon CST time and running until 7 PM. The full information on our club website. CQ and QST will also be printing it.

For the present, either electronically or on paper, I still need: 1) a summary sheet; 2) the log data; and 3) a dupe sheet for large logs. When and "if" we get to full computer scoring, then most of that will probably not be needed. Please submit your entry clearly, using the extension ".log" for the log itself AND the extension ".txt" for the summary. For example, mine would be " k9kr.sum" and " k9kr.log ". I leave the dupe sheet submission up to you. I do get a LARGE volume of spam, so please identify your entry clearly so I can recognize it easily, so I do not delete it. Entries can come directly to me at "k9kr@powercom.net" or via our club website thru the link there.

And for the record, electronic entries are not mandatory. We would hope most electronic entries would use the WARAC Cabrillo format, or better yet, the N3FJP WIQP program. However, we realize it will take time to get this information out the amateur community and the programmers. This will be a transition period until we can see what problems exist. And by the way, if you want to submit a simple text file or comma delimited file (CSV) as your log for this year, we are willing to work with you during this testing period. We hope the WARAC Cabrillo standard does what it should, so we can begin looking into the scoring process.

With any of these new methods of submission, there may some questions that develop. Expect to be contacted if I have trouble opening your log. I hope to confirm each electronic entry.

Lynn Tamblын, K9KR

WARAC CABRILLO QSO TEMPLATE FOR Wisconsin QSO Party

```
000000000111111111222222222233333333344444444455555555566666666677777777778
1234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890
-----info sent----- info rcvd-----
QSO: freq mo date time call rst exch call rst exch
QSO: ***** ** yyyy-mm-dd nnnn ***** nnn ***** nnn *****
```

FIXED STATION IN WIS

** WORKING WISCONSIN STATIONS - FIXED AND MOBILE

QSO: 7000 PH 2003-03-09 1701 K9KR	RAC	ND9Z	BRO
QSO: 7000 PH 2003-03-09 1703 K9KR	RAC	AB9DI/WIN	WIN
QSO: 7000 PH 2003-03-09 1704 K9KR	RAC	N9FH	OZA
QSO: 144 PH 2003-03-09 1718 K9KR	RAC	N9EZ/RAC	RAC

** WORKING OUT OF STATE STATIONS

QSO: 28403 PH 2003-03-09 1922 K9KR	RAC	W1AW	CT
QSO: 21030 CW 2003-03-09 2121 K9KR	RAC	K6LL	AZ
QSO: 14022 CW 2003-03-09 2233 K9KR	RAC	VE1OP	MAR
QSO: 28455 PH 2003-03-09 2311 K9KR	RAC	VE5SF	SASK
QSO: 28567 PH 2003-03-09 2345 K9KR	RAC	DL6QK	DX

WISCONSIN MOBILE STATION working in state and out of state

QSO: 7133 PH 2003-03-09 2155 K9KR	KEN	WA9AXQ	MIL
QSO: 7133 PH 2003-03-09 2156 K9KR	KEN	N9QA	OZA
QSO: 7133 PH 2003-03-09 2210 K9KR	WAL	WA9AXQ	MIL
QSO: 7133 PH 2003-03-09 2213 K9KR	WAL	N9QA	OZA
QSO: 7133 PH 2003-03-09 2318 K9KR	ROC	K6LL	AZ
QSO: 7133 PH 2003-03-09 2322 K9KR	ROC	N9QA	OZA
QSO: 28567 PH 2003-03-09 2345 K9KR	ROC	DL6QK	DX

OUT OF STATE STATION working Wisconsin

QSO: 14033 CW 2003-03-09 1812 W1AW	CT	K9KR	RAC
QSO: 14033 CW 2003-03-09 1813 W1AW	CT	WA9AXQ	MIL
QSO: 14033 CW 2003-03-09 1814 W1AW	CT	N9QA	OZA

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	LOCAL	Manager
BWN	YES	3985	1200	0600	W9RCW
BEN	YES	3985	1800	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	YES	3985	2315	1715	N9ZET
WNN	YES	3723	0000	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	YES	3645	0030	1830	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	YES	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	YES	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
RCRA	NO	01/61	0030	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT— Menomonie Area)					
Green Bay Area	NO	72/12	0345	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	NO	4.65/5.25	0300	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					

Wisconsin Section STM Report November 2003

Thanksgiving and the holiday season reminds us of all for which Hams in Wisconsin should give thanks. I pay attention to the traffic-related issues, but there's a lot more. We are indeed a fortunate ARRL section, so here's my partial list of what we would do well to pause and appreciate.

ARRL – a national organization that supports and represents our hobby well

W9IXG – a Section Manager who really cares about all Hams and all aspects of Ham Radio

WB9RQR – A retiring SEC who has given truly outstanding service in establishing ARES and RACES

KB9ENO – Our new willing and capable SEC to continue leadership of our emergency services

ASSISTANT SMs – W9CBE, K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9DGI, N9VE, for their support

BSSS – an outstanding medium for Ham news in our state – Thanks to K9EN and staff

K9GDF and all the Technical Specialists who assist with our technical prob-

lems

KE9VU, K9FHI, KB9ROB, WA9ZTY, WB9ICH, N6NKO, and W9UW whose service as Net Managers keeps our Wisconsin NTS nets functioning so well

Stations (in no order) such as AG9G, W9DGI, K9JPS, N9TVT, KA9EKG, KC9IK, KB9KEG, W9RSX, N9MGK, W9GHT, N9KHD, W9PBB, WB9WHG, K9LO, WD9FRI, W9KKM, W9CBE, W9YCV, N9KHD, K9UTQ, N9ZET, WA9ZTY, WB9ICH, N6NKO, W9IXG, W9IBL, KA9RZL, N9JIY, KJ9W, AA9BB, K9FHI, W9UW, KG9B, and more, whose efforts as Net Control Stations make our nets work so efficiently

Operators such as N9CK, W9CBE, W9YCV, W9PVD, K9FHI, KB9STB, WD9FLJ, K9RTB, K9WVM, KB9KEG, KB9IME, N8JAT, W9UW, W9SWL, (yes, your call could be here, too) who give their time and energy to serve as liaison between NTS nets such as the Ninth Region Net or CW nets

Traffic handlers like K9JPS, N9VE, K9GU, K9KR, W9IHW, W9PSU, AG9G, K9FHI, W9SIZ, KJ9W, N9TVT, W9BHL, KA9RZL, KN9P, W9RSX, WA9ZTY, N9NNN, and others who know the value of practice and of keeping the NTS ready through exercise

Folks such as KZ9V, KC9IS, AI9NL, KF9QA, K9LRS, K0ZYA, W9SD, KB9DVS, K0PSH, AB9ET, K9GEC, K0ERP, W0KYG, KI0DB, WD0HXR, K9RDW, KA9GNG, WA9EKG, W9ELK, K9FA, KE6IFC, WD9JIB, KG9NG, KB9NUM, N9VAO, N9NMH, W6BSF, K9VSO, and others whose consistent presence on our nets assures us of a traffic outlet or relay assistance we might need.

Every Ham in Wisconsin, who serves as an Elmer, reports the weather, assists the Red Cross, helps local emergency management, or experiments with radio.

There are many more who deserve special commendation for keeping our hobby functioning so well, for building and maintaining camaraderie, for making us a valuable resource. Those who work with our repeater systems, our local and area clubs, our legal issues, volunteer testing, and public information are only a few that come to mind. So thanks, everyone, for your help. If you weren't mentioned here specifically, it was an oversight – but you know who you are, and that is commonly the best reward for service. Did I mention that we're also humble?

73 K9LGU/STM-WI

Wisconsin Section STM Report December 2003

The end of the year brings the old end-of-the-year stats and comparisons. I am pleased to report that 2003 was a very good year. There were 42,010 check-ins to our traffic nets, and 23,597 pieces of traffic were handled. We spent 68,082 minutes during 2,548 sessions, and it was time well spent. Compared to last year, the check-ins have increased by 2,661 and traffic was up a whopping 1,788 pieces! That makes this

the best year in at least the last five. The BWN accounted for 72% of the total check-ins and 83% of the traffic, but every net served a purpose. It's true that 75% of our check-ins were to SSB nets, but that 25% on CW served as an important part of the system as well.

Not only did we practice the handling of messages, thus sharpening our skills for use in an emergency, but we tested our procedures, picked up traffic-handling tips by listening, and became familiar with the patterns of other operators with whom we would be working if necessitated by a disaster. With every birthday

greeting, seasonal wish, note from Handi-Hams, or congratulatory message from W1GMF or W1PEX, we tested our system. When the SET required sending traffic, the nets were ready.

In addition to maintaining our traffic-handling techniques, practicing net discipline, and checking our equipment, we continued to build our friendships and understanding of other Hams throughout the state. We learned from each other. If continued improvement is any measure – 2003 was indeed a very good year. 73-K9LGU/ STM - WI

Check us out on the web at [Http://www.bsss.org](http://www.bsss.org)

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2003

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1340	1590	2542	30	W9IXG
BEN	459	76	844	30	KE9VU
WSBN	767	119	1131	30	K9FHI
WNN	195	23	342	29	KB9ROB
WSSN	198	26	323	29	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	226	73	321	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	211	67	421	30	W9UW
WRACES	118	2	180	5	N6NKO
totals	3514	1976	6104	213	
MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET AM OPERATION – QNI 169 QTR 881 SSNS 5					

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY DECEMBER 2003

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1386	1639	2658	31	W9IXG
BEN	523	75	938	30	KE9VU
WSBN	838	116	1162	31	K9FHI
WNN	181	18	313	27	KB9ROB
WSSN	207	26	315	29	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	230	80	340	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	231	46	370	31	W9UW
WRACES	104	0	176	4	N6NKO
Totals	3700	2000	6272	213	
MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET AM ONLY QNI 190 QTR 914 IN 4 SESSIONS - WA9ZTY					

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY November 2003

	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
STATION	0	367	32	359	758 -BPL
W9IHW	0	194	31	193	418 –BPL*
N9VE	0	168	32	161	361 –BPL*
K9GU	0	109	29	108	246 – BPL*
N9TVT	0	81	141	0	222
K9LGU	2	102	75	9	188
W9CBE	0	87	66	3	156
W9IHW-OCT	0	50	33	49	132
K9FHI	0	52	64	0	116
AG9G	0	19	67	0	86
W9UW	0	51	27	1	79
W9SWL	0	21	44	3	68
WA9ZTY	0	5	41	5	51
KE9VU	0	22	29	0	51
N9NNN	0	2	35	2	39
KG9B	0	2	34	0	36
W9BHL	0	1	33	1	35
KB9ROB	0	24	4	3	31
N8JAT	0	11	6	8	25
K9UTQ	0	9	4	9	22
WB9ICH	0	17	4	0	21
W9RSX	0	4	9	3	16
AA9BB	0	1	15	0	16
KN9P	0	5	2	3	10
KA9RZL	0	3	2	2	7
WD9FLJ	1	1	4	1	7
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1

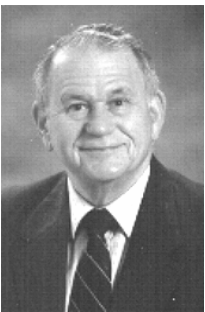
WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY December 2003

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
N9VE	0	351	35	335	721 - BPL
K9JPS	0	316	33	303	652 - BPL
W9IHW	0	164	32	158	354 – BPL*
W9CBE	0	104	119	4	227
K9LGU	1	73	43	3	120
K9FHI	0	49	55	0	104
AG9G	0	25	77	0	102
W9SWL	0	22	48	8	76
WA9ZTY	0	30	31	2	63
W9UW	0	37	16	0	53

(Continued on page 8)

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
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Skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 113. The Virtues of Speed Disk

You have probably read before in my column that I consider the Norton Utilities (Symantec Corporation) as the single most important piece of third party software a Windows user can buy. That opinion still holds, whether you are using Windows 3.1, 95, 98, ME, 2000, XP, or whatever. It finds problems and fixes them, taming the unruly, bloated, complicated Windows environment into something that most users can work with. Enough said about Windows. Anyway, the Norton Utilities are included in their suite, Norton Systemworks. Version 2004 is the latest release as of this writing (Oct 2003).

One of the Norton Utilities is Speed Disk, which takes the place of the Defrag program that comes with Windows. As an aside, Norton programmers (presumably under contract to Microsoft) wrote the Defrag program itself, but Defrag is much smaller and less capable than Speed Disk. I proved the origin of the Defrag program by examining its code in Windows 98se, which indeed contains the signature of the Norton Utilities group. Actually, Peter Norton himself made his reputation (and started his company) with his invention of Speed Disk, way back in the early years of computing.

Speed Disk does indeed defragment your drive, putting pieces of a file together in contiguous blocks of data. That makes your computer work faster and more efficiently, as I have written about before. But it does something else; too, that insures the integrity of your data. Something that is really not documented anywhere. At least, I have not been able to discover any documentation in the “white papers” and other documents on the Symantec web site. Before I tell you exactly what else Speed Disk does, let me give you a bit of background.

As you are aware, data is written to a hard drive’s platters by a tiny electromagnetic “head”, which flies over the platter’s surface. Electrical pulses, sent to the head, creates a magnetic field, which in turn, can alter the magnetic properties of a tiny section of the platter called a domain. To simplify a bit, if that tiny section is pulsed with the magnetic field of the head, it becomes a one. If it is not pulsed, it remains a zero. The pattern of ones and zeros is how the data is stored. For example, the capital letter “A” shown between the quotes in this sentence is stored in my computer as a pattern of eight binary digits: 01000001, while the lower case letter “a” is a different pattern of eight digits: 01100001. The point here is not what the patterns are, but rather that the platter has to be magnetized or demagnetized to “write” the data in whatever pattern is desired. And, those pat-

terns of magnetic domains are the only way that data is stored on your hard drive.

The rub is that storing data on a hard or floppy drive by writing magnetic domains with an electromagnetic head is not permanent. That is, when a one is written, at some interval of time (months to years), the magnetic domains will bleed down (get weaker) and the computer will no longer recognize that spot as a one. To avoid this and the associated possible loss of data, one needs some program that will read all of your data and rewrite it again, so as to refresh the magnetic domains and make them strong again. You know about this. You have probably done something similar yourself. If you rub a steel screwdriver on a permanent magnet, the screwdriver becomes magnetic itself and will nicely hold steel screws in place while you turn it. But that induced magnetic property will not last. After a few hours or days, it will become too weak to be of much use, and you have to rub the screwdriver on a magnet again, to refresh its magnetic holding power.

This is where Speed Disk comes in. Through careful observation, I have noticed that it does something unusual at certain intervals, when run repeatedly. I don’t know whether those intervals are timed in terms of elapsed days or hours, or whether they are timed in terms of the number of times Speed Disk has been run. But, in my case it seems to happen about every 5th or 6th time that I run the program. What it does is to pick up essentially all the data, lets say packed into the first quarter of the drive, and move it to the end of the drive. Then, after another 5 or 6 Speed Disk sessions, it picks up all the data and moves it back to the beginning of the drive.

Why is this important? When it moves all the data from one part of the drive to another, it is writing all the data anew, thus refreshing the magnetic domains (albeit in a new spot on the platter). It is as if all those programs had been freshly installed, or all those word processing files had been newly written. All the magnetic domains are at their peak strength. The screwdriver has just been rubbed on a powerful permanent magnet.

The Norton programmers were very clever to have done this. If they had not, the magnetic domains of that program you installed 4 years ago might be getting dangerously weak by now. Indeed, some of the ones might have been read as zeros already, and the resulting corrupted file might have ceased to work properly. But, quietly in the background, Speed Disk prevents this while defragging your hard drive. At some (unknown) interval, it refreshes all your magnetic domains, without fuss or muss. And you didn’t even know it was being done! Thank you, Symantec. Happy Computing!

Check us out on the web at
[Http://www.bsسسs.org](http://www.bsسسs.org)

WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

NOVEMBER 2003

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: WB9RQR, STM: K9LGU, ACC: Open, SGL: Open, OOC: N9VE, PIC: W9UQ. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK, ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9CBE, N9VE, W9DGI.

** With regret, I inform you of the passing of James Summers, WB9QFC, 75. He was a member of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Also, Keith Tonn, SR., N9PQV, 49, is a Silent Key. Keith was a member of the M&M ARC. W9NSE, Clarence Graff, 84, and W9BNM, Louis Vogl, 92, have passed away. Myron Jackson, WB9BBI, 63, is a Silent Key. Myron was president for the Fox Cities ARC and a former AEC.

** The 5th annual EC conference was held on November 8. Hosted by EC, Dan Lenz, KB9IME, the conference drew 72 ECs, AECs, and ARES members. We were honored to have Howie Huntington, K9KM, Vice Director of the Central Division, give a nice presentation and special award for 5 years of outstanding service to outgoing SEC, Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR. Our new SEC will be Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO. He will take over on January 1, 2004.

** The Wisconsin section web site: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI> has a list of speakers willing to give a talk to your club. We have added a nice presentation on APRS by Michael Martens, KB9VBR, kb9vbr@yahoo.com. He includes a live demo of WinAPRS. Contact Michael, if interested in learning about APRS. In addition, Richard Polivka, N6NKO, n6nko@arll.net has a presentation on HF Mobile Operation for the Emergency Communicator: Installation, Operation, and Safety concerns involving HF mobile emergency communications!! Also, I have put together a presentation on the subject of various basic wire antennas. I cover some easy to understand theory on power transfer, antennas, feed-lines, ground effects, recommended materials to use, etc. This presentation takes about 60 minutes. This is primarily targeted for those just getting into HF. If your club has a number of new amateurs who are interested in building wire antennas, let me know and I'll be happy to give this presentation to your club!

** The frequency change for the Wisconsin Valley Radio Association's W9SM 146.64 repeater in Wausau is planned for Saturday, November 15, 2003. The repeater's new frequency is: 147.135 MHz, PL 114.8 +600 KHz offset.

** We welcome the Amateur Radio League of Wisconsin, Inc., ARLOW, <http://www.arlow.org/> as an affiliate of the ARRL!

** Arde, KA9WAR, reports that Cliff, K7BQ, turns 100 on December 2! Cliff makes his summer home on Washington Island and is a member of the DCARC! Happy Birthday, Cliff! And, a happy 82nd wedding anniversary to Mike (W8KHY) and Marianne Anuta! Mike will be 103 in February! Must be something in that NE Wisconsin air that is good for long life!

** Bill Howe, KA9WRL, and the LEFROG organization put on quite a communication demonstration at Ledge Park during the recent JOTA event. Thanks to Dave, K9MKP, for sending me the impressive Horicon Reporter newspaper article. Well done LEFROG on another successful JOTA!

** From our STM, K9LGU: Thanksgiving and the holiday season reminds us of all for which Hams in Wisconsin should give thanks. I pay attention to the traffic-related issues, but there's a lot more. We are indeed a fortunate ARRL section, so here's a partial list of what we would do well to pause and appreciate. ARRL, W9IXG, WB9RQR, KB9ENO, ASSISTANT SMs: W9CBE, K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9DGI, N9VE, BSSS, K9EN and staff, K9GDF and all the Technical Specialists, net managers, net controls, liaison stations, traffic handlers, and all regular checkins. Don't forget every Ham in Wisconsin, who serves as an Elmer, reports the weather, assists the Red Cross, helps local emergency management, or experiments with radio. There are many more deserving of special commendation for keeping our hobby

functioning so well, for building and maintaining camaraderie, for making us a valuable resource. Those who work with our repeater systems, our local and area clubs, our legal issues, volunteer testing, and public information are only a few that come to mind. So thanks, everyone, for your help. 73 K9LGU/STM-WI

** And, from the Wisconsin Section team, we wish everyone a happy holiday season! 73, Don, W9IXG, w9ixg@arll.org.

DECEMBER 2003

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200 KE9VU. WBSN 3985 1715-1800 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830 WA9ZTY. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central)

** With regret, I am informing you the passing of the following Amateurs: Ronald Hooker, K9WTF, 69. Ronald was a member of WARAC for 44 years and past president. Also, Frank Brown, 89, KA9KAB, became a Silent Key. He was a member of ECARC and Chippewa Valley ARES/RACES. Robert Kitzinger, N9CFL, 80, passed away in Tucson, AZ.

** Representatives from the Milwaukee-Sullivan and Green Bay National Weather Service (NWS) offices recently presented their distinguished "Public Service Awards" to area individuals this past week in recognition of their superb and long term volunteer contributions to the NWS mission of saving lives and preventing property damage. Congratulations to KA9EWJ, KC0ARF, WD9HAS, WD9HAS, N9TPY, K9PAK, and, N9SZF for their contributions to the Wisconsin NWS!

** Phil, KC9IS, has decided to retire as coordinator for the Communication Technology Net after 3 successful years. We all thank him for his contribution to advancing the knowledge of amateur radio through this innovative net. To quote Phil: "The Net served a purpose by getting us thinking about our hobby from a technical perspective and the sharing of information. Many of you are experts in communications, electronics and Ham Radio. Share your knowledge. The CTN is registered with the ARRL Net directory. I would be happy to help you with the CTN. You would have the option to change the frequency, the date and the time." We hope the net can continue under the hands of a new coordinator. If you have an interest, please contact W9IXG or KC9IS, kc9is@arll.net!

** The Wisconsin Valley Radio Association was recently awarded with a \$250 grant from the Mid-Wisconsin Bank Foundation. WVRA President Mark Rasmussen, N9MEA, states: "The grant was a great addition to the WVRA's ongoing feed line and antenna project at the club's repeater site." Here is a good example of approaching organizations willing to provide funds to non-profit groups. Take some time to find sources of support in your community!

** If you have a strong opinion on the issue of Morse Code proficiency testing for amateur licenses, I recommend you email Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division Director, w9gig@arll.net, and let him know what you think, ASAP, so he can carry your vote to the upcoming ARRL Board meeting. The six petitions presented to the FCC are found on this site: <http://www.arll.org/news/stories/2003/08/29/2/>

** Here is the December report from Denny, K9LGU, STM: The end of the year brings the old end-of-the-year stats and comparisons. 2003 was a good year. There were 42,010 check-ins to our traffic nets, and 23,597 pieces of traffic were handled. We spent 68,082 minutes during 2,548 sessions, and it was time well spent. Compared to last year, the check-ins have increased by 2,661 and traffic was up a whopping 1,788 pieces! That makes this the best year in the last five. The BWN accounted for 72% of the total check-ins and 83% of the traffic, but every

(Continued on page 8)

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61

November meeting minutes

The Mancorad Radio Club meeting was called to order by President Fred (W6BSF) at 7:30. The secretary's report was read and approved by the membership. The treasurer's report was given by treas. Dick (N9QFY). It also was approved by all present.

Dennis Nelson (W9DWN) has been in contact with the Coast Guard in Two Rivers in regard to an overnight next summer at the Rawleigh Lighthouse in conjunction with a lighthouse event. Possible dates are Aug. 21-22-04. We have been contacted about the Bike North Woods Tour June 23-24-04 for traffic control. The bikes will overnight in Manitowoc on Wed evening and continue to Algoma on Thurs. We have done this before and they have appreciated all the help we gave them.

George Ohlm on Washington Island has a working station at his Bed and Breakfast for all hams.

Results on the last summer's field day are in. Our club was listed on the QST listing. We earned 1796 points, made 442 contacts. Top points earned were 15,678. All in all, the group felt everyone had a good time and plan to hold it again next summer.

Next month a decision will be made by members present on the location of the summer picnic. Bring you ideas and your votes to the meeting. We need a place we can have t-hunts and some sort of shelter.

Dan (N9NCU) reported on a planned event being held at the Kewaunee Nuclear plant on 2/2/04/. It was suggested we participate in this. However, after discussion it appeared this was an in house event with no outside participation. He did have some 2004 calendars to hand out for all. Thank you Dan.

Anyone having an idea for a program for club meetings please contact Shawn (KC9AAH) or Carl (KA9WYK). It always makes the meeting more interesting with a program.

All members are to have their club dues paid up by the end of the year. Renewal forms were mailed out last month and should be returned with the

dues. They can be returned at the meeting or sent to the club address. Also club members are reminded of the Christmas party.

It will be held on Jan. 2nd at Cedar Ridge. Social hour is 6-7 and at 7:00 a delicious meal of chicken and ribs will be served. As always, if you wish to exchange gifts, please bring one marked man or lady. Also door prizes will again be fought over. Last years game proved to be a lot of fun for everyone. The cost to members is 9.00 per person. This also needs to be paid by Dec. 29th. RSVP to Bob (KB9INK) or Dick (N9QFY).

Carl (KA9WYK) reported he is the Radio Merit Badge Counselor for Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Calumet Counties. He will be meeting with scout masters with his ideas for the merit badge requirements and class he would teach. more in the future on this.

Work on the tower should be done over the next 2 weeks by Ron Shimek.

Any one interested in bell ringing for the Salvation Army this year should contact John (NZ9Z). This is a very worth cause we participate in each year.

The attendance drawing goes to 14.00. Clancy (K9WIX) was not in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 8:55. Lunch was then served.

Respectively Submitted,
Theresa, Secretary (KB9KXE)

Meeting Attendance			
KB9KXE	Theresa	KB9KXF	Gene
KC9AAH	Shawn	N9GHE	Red
KB9VLS	Chris	N9NCU	Dan
W9NPX	Roger	KB9NTL	Don
WB9VYO	Vic	N9QFO	Len
KZ9EAZ	Dan	KA9WYK	Carl
N9WUN	Chuck	N9HNP	Dave
KB9GPN	Steve	N9XEZ	Bill
NZ9Z	John	KB9EME	Vern
WB9DQD	Gene	K9DUX	Bill
W6BSF	Fred	N9QFY	Dick

December meeting minutes

The monthly meeting of the Mancorad Radio Club was brought to order by V.P.Carl (KA9WYK) at 7:31 on Dec. 10th. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The Nov. minutes were summarized by Sec. Theresa (KB9KXE) and approved with motions by Red (N9GHE) and Shawn (KC9AAH). The treasurer's report was given by Dick (N9QFY). This too was approved with motions made by Gene (KB9KXF) and Ken (K9HAG).

All members were reminded that all dues are to be paid by the end of the year to the treasurer. Also anyone going to the Jan. 2nd Christmas party are to have their reservations made and paid for before the end of the year. Dick (N9QFY) or Bob (KB9INK) are who one should notify about the party. The social hour starts at 6:00 with dinner at 7:00 at Cedar Ridge restaurant. Bring a gift marked Man or Lady if you wish to exchange. Door prizes will be given out. The cost to members is 9.00 per person.

It was decided the club would purchase 10 orange safety vests for club events. The vests cost 9.95 each plus shipping and handling.

The members discussed and agreed on Neshotah Park in Two Rivers for the 2004 Family Picnic. The reservation will be made for the shelter near the horseshoe pit. Tentative dates are 8/7 or 8/14th. More to follow in the future.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed on to buy a new MFJ269 analyzer for 269.00 along with a power supply for 14.99 and a ten pack of rechargeable batteries for 25.00. Dick (N9QFY) will order these for the club. He will also order a ID unit for the back up repeater.

Red (N9GHE) is working on plans to revamp the club shack to provide space for another radio station. He is looking into getting old bread racks for the shelving units. He is looking for any help and any ideas one might have.

The next Ares/Races net is at 7:00 on Tues. 12/16 on the 61 repeater. Travis ((KB9YRC) was handing out renewal membership forms to members at the meeting. Others will be sent.

A gift certificate to The Willows in Valders will be given to Wayne Frank for his endless time spent on the repeater. Red will take care of this for the club.

Ken (K9HAG) mentioned that there will be a lighthouse event during the holiday season. Contact him for more information.

The attendance pot goes to \$15.00. Vern KB9EME was not in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 7:58. Lunch was served.

Respectively submitted,
Theresa (KB9KXE), Secretary

Meeting Attendance:			
KB9INK	Bob	KC9AAH	Shawn
KB9YRC	Travis	N9GHE	Red
WB9VYO	Vic	N4WGK	Denise
W9NPX	Roger	KB9KXF	Gene
KB9GOY	Mary	K9HAG	Ken
K9DUX	Bill	N9QFY	Dick
KA9WYK	Carl	N9FVZ	Dan

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Jerry Graebel - W9GLG
P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI

December meeting minutes

Program: Myron, KB9STB explained to the members how the NTS (National Traffic System) works. He handed out a flyer explaining the Wisconsin Nets and the flow of how the traffic gets from one point to another. The use of the NTS system is open to all licensed Radio Amateurs. Dennis, W9PBB added so insight as to why there has been a reduction in the amount of traffic, is the lower cost of phone calls. Myron added that Don, W9IXG is inviting anyone who can to join in the Badger Weather Net. The net is the one of the oldest nets to handle traffic in the state. The net meets daily at 6:00 a.m. on 3985 KHz., to pass weather information. If you would like more information on this net, contact Myron at kb9stb@wvraclub.org or Don at w9ixg@arrl.net. Myron also mentioned that there would be a CPR class coming up. Time and place are not yet set.

Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2003 at Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center.

President Mark Rasmussen called meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: W9GLG, KB9RXA, W9PBB, KB9EVB, N9NRC, N9UAG, N9SDI, N9LIA, N9TTA, KB9VBR, KC9AEJ, K9YF, KC9FCE, KC9BSK, K9DB, N9NRA, WA9NBC, KB9ZOF, WS9E, N9NMH, KC9CIY, KB9STB, N9MEA, KC9DOS, KA9PML.

Treasurer's Report:
Motion to accept: N9NRA Second: KC9CIY

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the November 4, 2003 meeting were accepted as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or posted on the WVRA Web Site. www.wvraclub.org.

Old Business:

1. Ham of the Year Award was discussed. Nominations will be at the WVRA monthly meeting on January 6th. Nominations can be made in person or sent to any WVRA Board member. You must be a WVRA member to make a nomination. Nominees must have had an influence on Amateur Radio in the Central Wisconsin area. This can be from a state or national level also. Jon, KC9AEJ suggested and a motion was made by Myron, KB9STB to keep the award so nominations can only be made by WVRA members for this year, and open it to other clubs in the area next year. Second was by Jack, N9LIA. Motion passed. Paul, K9DB suggested the WVRA change the name of the award to "Excellence in Amateur Radio" (EAR). The award will be based on last years achievements but also include the nominee's lifetime achievements. Motion was made by Matt, N9NMH and second by Lisa, KC9DOS. Motion passed. Motion was made by Matt, N9NMH and second by Tom, N9TTA that the person making the nomination provide the committee with a biography of the nominee, and the committee will verify the information. Motion passed. The award will be presented to the winner at a banquet to be held on March 27th at the American Legion in Wausau. There will be a cost of about \$20 per person with Steak and Shrimp to be served. There will be a cash bar starting at 6:00 p.m. for one hour before the dinner at 7:00 p.m. The Banquet will be limited to 48 people.

2. Michael, KB9VBR has distributed the new information for net control operators. There is still a need for someone on the fifth Wednesday Night Swap Net and the fourth Monday HF Net. If you would like to help, contact Michael at kb9vbr@wvraclub.org. He has submitted the net information to N1RL so we may be mentioned on the ARRL Audio News. He will also be working to get the information on the new repeater frequency changed on the WVRA web page and some other sites with net information.

3. There antenna for the W9SM-10 Igate is now on the roof of Martech Systems on 3rd Avenue. Thanks to N9NMH, KB9DED, KB9VBR in getting it installed. You may be seeing a new Wide Digi on your maps. Rich, KC9NW has been working on the KC9NW-10 installation for a while and testing the system.

4. The W9SM two meter repeater frequency has changed to 147.135 + offset and a pl of 114.8. The cage for the system has been purchased and installed. Mark, N9MEA is looking to make a few more changes, such as raising the power on the 70 cm. to 100 watts. The antennas for the system are now at 375 feet on the Fox 55 tower east of Wausau.

5. The Pampered Chef party was a success. The party raised \$104.42 for the Repeater Fund. Lisa, KC9DOS passed out some of the items purchased at the party. Thanks to Mark, N9MEA and Lisa, KC9DOS for hosting the party.

6. Myron, KB9STB reported on the "Coins for QSO's" bowling event held November 14th at Weston Lanes. He does not have a final count on the amount raised but did pass on a few funny stories of what happened. Jerry, W9GLG had a ball stick on his thumb. When he let it go it almost hit the ceiling. Mark, N9MEA was beat by his nephew at bumper bowling. Myron also reminded everyone of the 9-pin tap tournament to be held on January 10th. Please go to http://wvraclub.org for more information.

7. Myron, KB9STB reported that the Halloween Watch was a quiet, but interesting night. Thanks to all who helped.

8. The Technician Workshop held on October 18th and 19th had a good turnout with five who attended the class earning their license at the VE session held afterward. Two others earned their license at a VE session held November 19th. Jim, K9JXW has contacted Myron, KB9STB about teaching a CW class if there is enough interest. Please contact Myron at kb9stb@wvraclub.org if you would like to see this class happen.

9. Myron, KB9STB is looking for any material for the "The Carrier". If you have any input on antennas, products, ham news, recipes or technical information please submit it to him at kb9stb@wvraclub.org.

10. The WVRA will take part in the Christmas Parade on Friday, December 5th. All who are going to help should be at the Marathon Park at 5:00 p.m. Matt, N9NMH made a motion that the club purchase decorations for the trailer at a cost of between \$20 and \$25. Second by Dan, KB9RXA. Motion passed. Myron, KB9STB also made a motion that the club

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Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

(Continued from page 6)

purchase candy to be handed out to the children. Second by Dan, KB9RXA. Motion passed. Paul, K9DB has reserved a place in the Mosinee Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6th.

11. The WVRA has received notice for the first grant for the Repeater Project from Mid Wisconsin Financial for \$250. Thanks to the Grant Committee for writing the grant. The letter also informed the WVRA that there has been a change in the guidelines. The club will not be eligible again for two years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M KB9STB Second - N9LIA

The next meeting will be Tuesday January 6, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center Cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the Employee parking lot on west side of the building. Call in on 2-meter club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 146.640 (pl 114.8).

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Graebel - W9GLG (w9glg@arrl.net)
WVRA Secretary

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

January meeting minutes

Program: Myron, KB9STB outlined some of the upcoming ARES events. On Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 P.M. there will be an ARES meeting with training focusing on putting together Go-Bags for deployment, HT's and simplex operations. This would be a great time to dust off the HT's and bring them along with for this meeting. On a Sunday evening in February there will be American Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED training. This will replace the training that was normally held in June. Anyone who successfully completed this June training will not have to attend this time. On March 9th at 6:30 P.M. at the American Legion in Wausau will be the yearly-required Skywarn training with the National Weather Service. April 27 at 7:00 P.M. will be a summary of storm spotting and a review of the county's SOP Manual since there are some new changes. Saturday, May 22 will be a drill that will include traffic passing and DFing. More details will follow on that as well once more details are concrete. Because Field Day (among other activities) will be in June, there will not be an ARES meeting or training. Lastly, on July 24 starting at 09:00 training and drill on search and rescue will take place. If all goes as planned, this will take a morning to cover the basics and apply skills learned. The question was asked as to is the Skywarn training required for the WVRA membership. It is required only if you intend to take part in the ARES Weather Nets this summer. Myron has also been working on a group tour of the Marathon County EOC.

Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2004 at Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center.

President Mark Rasmussen called meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

Present: N9MO, W9PBB, N9SDI, N9LIA, N9TTA, K9MIX, N9NRC, KC9ASL, KB9STB, W9GLG, N9KNY, KC9EWU, KB9DED, N9NMH, N9MEA, KC9DOS, KC9AEJ, KC9FCE, KB9EVB, KC9BSK, K9QM, WA9NBC, K9DB, KC9EQS, KT9W, and Cindy (Mrs. W9GLG)

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept: N9MO Second: KB9STB

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December 2, 2003 meeting were accepted as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or posted on the WVRA Web Site. www.wvraclub.org.

Old Business: 1. The 9-pin tap-bowling tournament will be January 10th The tournament is slated to be at Dale's Weston Lanes with registration at 12:30 and the bowling to begin at 2:00 P.M. There will be a need for people to help with the setup and drawings. The tournament is set to pay prizes out to at maximum the top 15 finishers (singles class) and the top five places for doubles. Payouts are prorated.

There will be other drawings throughout the afternoon of the tournament. These sideline prize opportunities include 50/50 drawings hourly, a "paddle wheel" to raffle off prizes and other contests. This tournament is open to anyone with any level of bowling ability. Skill-although helpful-is not required. Help is still needed for this event. If anyone is able to help, please contact Myron KB9STB at kb9stb@wvraclub.org or call on the local repeaters. 2. This year the Badger State Winter Games will be February 6-7-8 and Special Olympics Winter Olympic Games will be February 20-22, 2004. The WVRA uses both voice traffic and APRS at these events to help map-out locations on the race course to aid dispatch of assistance for skiers and snow shoers in the event that help is need. Both events will be held at Nine Mile County Forest in the Town of Rib Mountain. Volunteer help is always needed at these events. If anyone is interested, please contact Mike Wild, KB9DED-email kb9ded@wvraclub.org to offer your services. You can volunteer for one day, two or both.

3. Dave, N9KNY is always looking for new items relating to Amateur Radio to add to the WVRA Web page. Dave and Jon, KC9AEJ will be getting together to do a clean-up job of the web page in a few weeks. Dave also has the Carrier newsletter up and running.

4. Myron, KB9STB is looking for anyone who has any interesting items they could write an article about that is related to Amateur Radio. You can Email him at kb9stb@wvraclub.org.

5. Myron, KB9STB is trying to get Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO for doing a presentation at the March club meeting. Bill is the new Section Emergency Coordinator. If anyone has a topic that they would like to see a program on, please let Myron know.

6. Matt, N9NMH reported that all went well at the Christmas Parade in Wausau. The Club Trailer was decorated with lights and candy was passed out to the children along the way. Lance, KC9CIY had his weather-spotting car in the parade also. The next day some of the members went to take part in the Mosinee Parade. There are some pictures from the parade on the WVRA web page.

7. Cindy Graebel informed the members it is now official. The First Annual WVRA Excellence in Amateur Radio Award Banquet will be March 27th, 2004 at the American Legion in Wausau. Cindy mentioned how she looked through some of the old WVRA files and found out that there was a Banquet held annually in years passed. This is a good chance

to start a new tradition for the WVRA. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:00 P.M. along with a cash bar so people can get acquainted. A Steak & Shrimp dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. At about 7:30 P.M. we will have a guest speaker followed by the Award presentation. The cost will be \$21 per person. This will be a good time to meet some of old friends and to make some new ones. Please try to come and congratulate this year's winner for the their contributions to Amateur Radio, and the Community. Seating is limited to 60 people. Advance reservations can be made by sending your payment to Cindy Graebel, 624 E. Bridge St., Wausau, WI 54403-3566, or by paying Jerry, W9GLG at any of the WVRA meetings. There are three nominees for award this year. They are Lewis Sheerar, K9JPS - Mark Rasmussen, N9MEA - and Myron Oestreich, KB9STB. A ballot with instructions and a copy of the achievements of the nominee's will be sent by Email to the members in late February. Please take the time to cast your vote.

New Business: 1. The WVRA was approached by Gene, K9UTQ to help by setting up a demonstration of Amateur Radio at the A.C.E.S. for the Boy Scouts of America held at John Muir Middle School on Wausau's west side. At this time all looks well. If you have a little time and can stop in, the set-up will be from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and the people will be coming from 9:30 - 2:30. 2. Myron, KB9STB is looking for feedback as to who is interested in getting jackets with the WVRA logo on them. The cost for different styles range from \$20 - \$46. A charge of \$2.50 - \$3.50 gets your name and call sign on the front. These are social jackets, not for emergency use. If you are interested contact Myron at kb9stb@wvraclub.org. 3. Mark, N9MEA will be doing some maintenance on the repeaters on January 18th. This is so everyone will not be alarmed if they cannot bring up the repeaters.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M KB9STB Second - N9TTA

The next meeting will be Tuesday February 3, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the Marshfield Clinic Wausau Center Cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the Employee parking lot on west side of the building. Call in on 2-meter club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 147.135 (pl 114.8).

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Graebel, W9GLG (w9glg@arrl.net)
WVRA Secretary

(Continued from page 3)

Universal Licensing System interface

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site at, <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available Sunday, December 14, from 10 AM until 6 PM EST. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site at, <http://esupport.fcc.gov>, or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255).

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail at ulshelp@fcc.gov, or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888). NNNN /EX

While many people really should be shot, the paperwork is almost never worth it.

Experience is the best teacher. But if you can get it secondhand, the tuition is less.

I saw Lassie. It took me four shows to figure out why the hairy kid never spoke. I mean, he could roll over and all that, but did that deserve a series?

"We have enough youth, what we need is a fountain of smart."

Always borrow money from a pessimist; he doesn't expect to be paid back. We'll file that away for your epitaph.

AMAZING BUT TRUE ...
If all the salmon caught in Canada in one year were laid end to end across the Sahara Desert, the smell would be absolutely awful.

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WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

(Continued from page 5)

net served a real purpose. It's true that 75% of our check-ins were to SSB nets, but that 25% on CW served as an important part of the system as well. Not only did we practice the handling of messages, thus sharpening our skills for use in an emergency, but we tested our procedures, picked up traffic-handling tips by listening, and became familiar with the patterns of other operators with whom we would be working if necessitated by a disaster. If we can measure success by improvement, it was indeed a very good year. --

K9LGU/STM

** I am proud to announce the following new appointees to the Wisconsin Section staff: Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO- Section Emergency Coordinator; Daniel Gomez Ibanez, W9DGI- State Government Liaison; Bob Durfee, III, K9XB- Affiliated Club Coordinator.

** The Wisconsin Section Cabinet wishes everyone a Happy New Year! 73,

ARRL Wisconsin Section Section Manager: Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG, w9ixg@arrl.org

SECTION MANAGER ELECTION NOTICE

The office of ARRL Section Manager for the Wisconsin Section is coming up for election for a 2 year term beginning July 1, 2004. A call for nominating petitions is on page 77 of the January issue of *QST*, along with information on eligibility and petition procedures. Petitions must be received at ARRL Headquarters by March 5, 2004. Don Michalski, W9IXG of Madison WI is the incumbent Section Manager.

STATION ACTIVITY REPORTS

(Continued from page 4)

KE9VU	0	19	29	0	48
KB9ROB	0	30	9	4	43
W9BHL	0	6	27	4	37
KG9B	0	2	36	0	38
N9NNN	0	0	31	0	31
K9GU	0	0	30	0	30
AA9BB	0	0	27	0	27
K9UTQ	0	11	4	11	26
WD9FLJ	2	7	9	4	22
WB9ICH	0	20	1	0	21
W9RSX	0	4	10	3	17
KN9P	0	6	4	4	14
KA9RZL	0	10	2	1	13
N8JAT	0	5	1	5	11
W9PVD	0	1	2	0	3

P S H R SUMMARY
November 2003

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9TVT	40	40	10	340	0	0	430
N9VE	35	40	30	280	0	0	385
WA9ZTY	40	40	30	50	50	0	210
K9JPS	34	40	10	95	0	0	179
AG9G	40	40	20	30	0	0	130
K9FHI	40	40	30	5	0	10	125
K9LGU	40	40	20	5	0	0	105
KB9KEG	40	35	20	0	0	10	105
W9CBE	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
W9BHL	35	33	30	0	0	0	98
KA9RZL	40	7	30	0	0	0	77
W9RSX	40	17	10	0	0	0	66
WD9FLJ	40	5	10	0	0	10	65

P S H R SUMMARY
December 2003

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VE	40	40	30	305	0	0	415
K9JPS	34	40	10	120	0	0	204
AG9G	40	40	20	30	0	0	130
K9FHI	40	40	30	5	0	10	125
WA9ZTY	40	40	30	10	5	0	125*
K9LGU	40	40	30	5	0	0	115
KB9KEG	40	36	20	0	0	10	106
W9CBE	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
W9BHL	30	37	30	0	0	0	97
WD9FLJ	40	24	10	0	0	10	84
KA9RZL	40	13	30	0	0	0	83
N8JAT	40	11	20	0	0	10	81
W9RSX	40	17	10	0	0	0	67

* NOTE: WA9ZTY QUALIFIES FOR 12-MONTHS SEQUENTIAL PSHR.

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
Presents:
HAMFEST 2004
Sunday, March 21

Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Activity Center

Hwy 18 West, Jefferson, WI

From 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM

VE Testing On Site-Starting at 9:00AM

- Vendors will be admitted at 7:00AM.
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(Continued from page 10)

A Peek at the Icom D-Star

for those of us using Linux or Macintosh computers. Anyone using these operating systems will have to configure the radio with Windows, then use the control panel to operate the radio. As an ethernet card is standard stuff, it is possible to transfer data from a Linux or Mac computer - to these computers, the D-Star is just another network interface. The lack of Linux and Mac software is a serious limitation for hams, a lot of us use Linux in our experimentation.

Installing the software is fairly straightforward. Install "Wizards" are used, and the dialog boxes ask for such things as IP addresses, subnet mask, and USB port. The instruction manual covers the install process quite nicely, with specific instructions for Windows 95/98/Me, as well as Windows 2000 and XP. Computer novices will find that it's not at all difficult to set up with the instructions provided.

Once installed and configured, you'll see a graphic duplicate of the control head on your computer's screen. You can control anything from either the control head or via the computer. Operation of the software is fairly easy - if you want to adjust the volume, you move the mouse pointer to the graphic volume control, and drag it to the appropriate level.

Before you make your first contact however, you will need to supply a few more bits of information - namely, your call-sign, the call-sign of a local digipeater (node) and call-signs of frequently contacted stations.

Once you do that, the fun can begin.

Actual Operation

Our test setup was simple, and done on "short time", so we could not give it an exhaustive test - that will come this spring. For our test, we used the following equipment:

- Toshiba 1.2 GHz Laptop Computer with Windows XP
- Dell 900 MHz Laptop Computer with Windows 2000
- Two ID-1 Icom D-Star Transceivers
- Two Comet GP-21 Omnidirectional Base Antennas (12.2 dbd gain)
- Two Astron power supplies (RS-35)

These setups were placed in adjacent rooms about 25 or 30 feet apart and both radios were operated on low power (1 Watt). This provided a decent "baseline" signal to use for comparison purposes.

The radios were reasonably easy to operate, there is nothing unusual or odd about the way they operate. You may not be used to one minor detail - setting your call-sign in the radio for digital operation. This is generally done by entering your call-sign in the TNC with the "MYCALL" command. Icom uses this same terminology, by the way. It is easy to do and won't confuse anyone at all. While conventional voice operation is just like any other radio, once you set the call-sign for digital modes, digital voice operates just like a conventional radio. We did not test (and were not that excited about testing) the low-speed data operation, so we'll only talk about high-speed data operation.

Once you have everything set up, high-speed data operation is pretty much unremarkable. By that, I mean that you hardly know it's there. For our crude throughput test, all we did was to use the built-in facilities Windows has for transferring a file.

The other computer appears in the "Network Neighborhood" screen on the Windows computer. We did a simple "drag-n-drop" operation, and in about 6 minutes, a 5 Megabyte Mp3 file was transferred. It works out to roughly 100 Kbps under our near-ideal conditions. Anyone who has gone through the tedium of transferring even a small file via garden-variety packet can appreciate just how

painless this is! No need to use YAPP, UU or any other intermediate program to transfer a binary file - it's all done via TCP/IP in a painless way.

The speed of the radios is very impressive. They respond instantly and the transmissions are very short. For a long file transfer, you won't be able to keep up with the transmit light on the front panel of the radio! Think of it, an entire 50K file transferred in one transmission.

Summary

The Icom D-Star is just about anything one could want in a data radio, and more. Digital and Analog voice make it multi-mode, and this capability can help when trying to troubleshoot bad signal paths without ambiguity.

Although the estimated (I can't stress this enough) price in the \$500-\$600 range may seem a bit pricey, consider what one gets for the money: A full-featured FM analog radio, a digital voice radio and a data radio capable of twice dial-up phone modem data rates, without the need to buy a TNC or other interface. You're really getting 3 radios and a very special TNC for that money. Changing modes is a snap, so you don't have to dedicate this radio for digital service. In short, it's not quite as expensive a radio as you might first think.

And even though it's a new radio with new capabilities, it's as painless as can be to operate. As I mentioned before, you hardly know it is there, which is a good thing. Even though it's a full-featured radio, there are a few minor drawbacks. First is the software. Although it operated well enough, there is none available for other operating systems. This is key as we don't want to use Windows-based servers on a large-scale packet network for a variety of reasons. With any luck, either Icom or some other interested party may rewrite the software for other operating environments.

Second is output power. 10 watts should do for most any circumstance. However, additional power may be useful in a few instances. Adding an external power amplifier may not be easy - it would increase the transmit-receive "turnaround" time unacceptably. As time goes on, perhaps we'll see a higher-powered version come available.

Speaking of transmit-receive turnaround time, there is no obvious method to change some of the more technical operational parameters. Most of us are used to "tweaking" things like TXDelay and Slot time, there does not appear to be a set of comparable commands in the D-Star. These radios operated very well, as was pointed out earlier. However, there may be a need to modify these parameters in certain situations and there does not appear to be an easy way to do it.

Then there is the fact that this is brand-new technology for the amateur radio market. There aren't any of these around yet, and in the short term, you may be a little lonely if you expect to make a lot of contacts with it in any mode. Add to that the fact that this is one manufacturer's vision of digital radio and other manufacturers may have other ideas, there may be some incompatibilities further down the road. The Digital Voice part is somewhat standard, though, as it uses the AMBE CODEC.

Of course that's a moot point if they sell well and are embraced by hams. If enough of these radios are bought and used, then Icom's D-Star system becomes a "defacto" standard.

Conclusion

All in all, the D-Star appears not only to be a very good radio, but also appears to be a very good system. It's easy to set up, easy to operate, provides for a host of capabilities we have not seen until now, and can be used for more than one purpose. Not a bad deal, all in all.

If you want more info on the D-Star radios and system, check out:

<<http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/D-Star>>.

MADISON AREA REPEATER ASSOCIATION

2004 Madison Hamfest & Computer Show

Sponsored by the Madison Area Repeater Association - W9HSY

The date will be Sunday, April 18, 2004

Doors Open to the public at 8 AM - Dealer setup Saturday night
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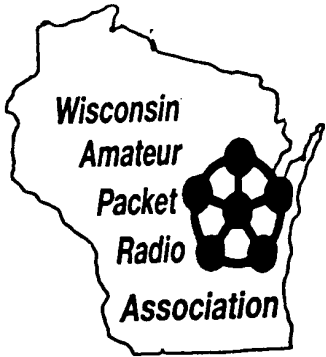
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Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Table reservations postmarked by March 24, 2004 after March 24, 2004
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Indoor only – No outdoor sales! (\$25.00 on day of swapfest, if available)

Mail completed form with check to: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890



From the archives: Bud Woida (**The Old Geezer**), W9KQB, Manitowoc, WI. Bud was active on the CW nets. Claims to have only sent only one QSL card for a phone contact, then took the modulator tubes out of his rig and only operated CW. Bud was the Section Communication Manager about 1960 and was the net manager of the WIN CW net. Bud edited the WIN Bulletin with news for the CW nets. If any one has copies of those bulletins, or any other early newsletters, BSSS would be interested in obtaining them. We would like to scan them to preserve the history of amateur radio in Wisconsin. We hope to make available a CD of newsletters including the 35 years of BSSS. — 73, Ken, K9EN



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Allen Schnepf, N0GMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor—453 Cottage Grove Avenue—Green Bay, WI 54304—e-mail: kb9aln@gbonline.com

WAPR News - February, 2004

Hello everyone, I hope your new year is off to a good start. Let's hope and work for a steadily improving packet radio network not only in this state, but in the country as a whole.

There's only a small bit of news to report regarding the network. The node WIBALD near Baldwin (in the Northwest part of the state) has been reactivated. The eventual goal is to link the Minnesota packet network to the U.P. of Michigan packet network, and then south to Northeastern Wisconsin. Leroy, N8WQG and others involved in the UP Network are working to make the connections complete. As we get closer, I'll provide more details.

We're still no closer to replacing or relocating the Appleton and Tomah node stacks. As a result, most BBSs in Wisconsin have no forwarding feed. A potential sale and relocation of the Appleton stack unfortunately fell through.

All of this means that we will need to work harder and smarter to see the Wisconsin packet network, and WAPR survive and thrive. As I mentioned last time in a not-too-cheery article here, things will need to change. Our officers in WAPR are at a point of not being able to do much more. Which means that we will need new officers, and more people, to keep the Wisconsin Network and WAPR alive and well. Can you help? Contact me if you can.

Speaking of the future, this month we have a special treat. Recently, I was invited to look at and operate a pair of the new Icom ID-1 "D-Star" radios. To make space for the larger article, this will be a short news report.

I think you'll find this article of interest, because it touches on what we might expect from future packet radio. In order to keep packet alive, useful and interesting, it has to move forward. I think the D-Star is one giant leap forward in packet radio technology, and it certainly holds promise for the future. I hope you enjoy reading about it as much as I enjoyed playing with these radios.

That's all for this time out, until next time, 73 from Andy.

A Peek at the Icom D-Star

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Recently, I had an opportunity to take look at and test the new Icom "D-Star" radios that will soon be released for sale. While this article is not a real comprehensive review with lab tests and such, it is a brief overview of a new radio with a user's impression of the radio.

Because they are so new, I was able to try two of these radios for evaluation. Thanks to Scott KB9AMM and Jill KB9PZF Cole at Tower Electronics and Ray Novak KC7JPA at Icom America for the arranging a test of the radios for this article.

As amateurs, we're used to seeing all kinds of new technology, powered by microcomputers and dripping with all kinds of handy features. The Icom D-Star radios are no exception, they're even a little

more than what we're used to seeing. In fact, the Icom D-Star radios are a new kind of radio.

What is D-Star?

Icom's D-Star radios are not only hardware, but a complete digital and analog radio system. D-Star was jointly developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) and Icom through grants from the Japanese government.

All D-Star radios are capable of Analog and Digital voice operation, in addition to two speeds of data operation. High-speed Data operation is not limited to conventional AX.25 operation, it is an "open protocol" system. This means that one can relatively painlessly use TCP/IP and in fact, connect to the internet. Anything that can be done on the internet - including web browsing and file transfers - can be done easily with D-Star radios. Note that an internet connection is not required for the operation of the radio, but it can be done. In short, the radio has the capability of allowing internet-style services to be transported via radio, with ir without the internet.

There are a number of D-Star models, but they can be classified as falling into one of two types: "end user" and "backbone". The "end user" model has data rates of 128 Kbps (roughly equivalent to the lowest-grade DSL) and operates in the 1.2 GHz band, while the "backbone" model provides for more than one voice channel and data rates of 10 Mbps in the 10 GHz band.

A local D-Star "digipeater" system is similar to a conventional node stack. It has a user port at 128K bps, as well as a backbone port at 10 Mbps. It differs in that no TNCs are used - everything needed to send a packet of data (aside from the data itself and the computer) is contained within the radio. No arcane TNC commands are needed to be learned - although there is some setup of the D-Star radio required.

Unpacking the Radios

Our test radios were the ID-1 128K "end user" models. Unpacking them revealed the radio itself, along with a few optional accessories not included in the "basic" ID-1. Ours included the speaker, microphone, optional control head, ethernet, USB and microphone extension cables, "double-female" ethernet coupler connector, brackets and software. Of course there's the instruction manual, all 108 pages of it. The instruction manual is complete and comprehensive - and even tells you how to prepare cables for connection to the "N" type RF connector used for the antenna.

The radio itself is about the size of a garden-variety dual-band mobile radio - 5 1/2" wide, 1 9/16" high, and 6 7/16" deep. The control head is approxi-



mately 6" wide, 2" high and 2" deep. The radio weighs about 2 1/2 pounds, the control head a mere 7 ounces.

Quality of construction appears to be up to Icom's usual standards, at least on the outside (we didn't open the radios up). It operates on standard 13.8V DC, and can be operated as a mobile or base unit (with the appropriate power supply, of course). Transmitter power is selectable at either 1 or 10 watts. It also has fan cooling.

The radio has some standard features you're likely to find on most any radio, such as a VFO, 105 memory channels and alphanumeric display of these memory channels. There are also tone and digital squelches included, and easily accessible call channels. There are also a number of other features unique to this radio, because it's a unique radio.

Making It Work

The radio has the usual microphone, power and antenna connectors, along with an ethernet pigtail and a USB pigtail. The USB port is used to control the radio. There is no conventional serial port on this radio, you will need a computer with USB ports in order to configure and remotely control the radio. In order to send data, the computer used will need to be equipped with a network card (commonly called an ethernet adaptor) that can accept an RJ-45 connector.

Connection was straightforward - in fact, rather easy. Just plug the appropriate connector into the computer or radio, and then install and configure the software.

The software is not what regular packet users may be used to. A healthy part of it is designed to control the radio. Yes, this can be operated as a "black box" radio. However, if you're looking for something like "Pac Term", you won't find it. The



Icom D-Star ID-1 Transceiver Specifications	
General	
Frequency Coverage: 1240-1300 MHz	
Emission Types: FM, AMBE and GMSK	
Data Rates: 4.8Kbps on Digital Voice	
128Kbps on Data	
Memory Channels: 105	
Transmitter	
Modulation: FM on Analog	
Quadrature on Digital	
Output Power: 1 or 10 Watts	
Deviation: +/- 5 KHz.	
Spurious Emissions: Less than -50 db	
Receiver	
Receive System: Triple Conversion on voice	
Dual conversion on Data.	
Sensitivity (12db SINAD):	
FM less than 0.18 uV	
Digital Voice less than .35 uV	
Data less than 1.58 uV	
Selectivity: FM More than 12 KHz/6db	
Less than 30 KHz/60db	
Digital Voice More than 6 KHz/6db	
Less than 18 KHz/ 50db	
Data More than 140 KHz/6db	
Less than 520 KHz/40db	

software is designed to configure and control the radio, log contacts and such. In order to engage in a keyboard chat, for example, you might use something like an Internet IRC client. In other words, your web browser would find much more use than any conventional packet software.

The software itself is currently only available for Windows operating systems - a serious problem
(Continued on page 9)

Buy it! • Sell it • Trade it • Fix it

SWAPFESTS

 <p>2002 WINNER Michael J. Haessler, KB9TG Waupaca, WI.</p> <p><i>Both sponsored by:</i> THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC. P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201</p>	<p><i>HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!</i> MADISON SWAPFEST Mandt Community Center <i>APRIL 18, 2004</i> 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890 swapfest Information Line. (608) 245-8890</p>	<p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST 04 JULY 10, 2004 (Held every July) <i>American Legion Park</i> <i>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</i> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail ryatex@aol.com</p>		
<p>SEWFARS SWAPFEST HAM RADIOS • COMPUTERS • ELECTRONICS AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS APRIL 25, 2004 Setup starts at 6:00 A.M. For more information, call (262) 742-4903</p>	<p>The Chicago FM Club presents RADIO EXPO 2004 September , 2004 Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts. 45 and 120 Grayslake, Illinois Free parking • Amateur Exams • Talkin 146.16/76 Info Voice mail and FAX: (708) 457-0966 http://www.chicagofmclub.org P.O. Box 56784, Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0724</p>	<p>TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS HAMFEST 2004 March 21, 2004 YOUR SPRING FAVORITE ! www.cmdline.com/tcarc/ TCARC 213 Frederick St (920) 563-6381 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings</p>		
 <p>NS9RC <i>fest</i> formerly known as LAMARfest Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, Illinois Radio, Electronic, Computer Swapfest www.ns9rc.org</p> <p>MARCH 28, 2004 Grayslake, IL</p>	<p>Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club HAMFEST 2004 Saturday, September 11, 2004 For Information Contact: Steve Bluem at (715)839-6509 ka9omy@arri.net ECARC P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire. WI 54702-1867</p>	<p>The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents AMATEUR RADIO FEST 2004 November 2004 Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings For more information, see: http://www.execpc.com/mrc e-mail mrc@mrc91.org or call 1.608.367.3953</p>		
<p>Ozaukee Radio Club 23rd ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST MAY 01, 2004 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center Intersection of Highway 60 and County I Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno, 5119 W, Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222 Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg WI 53012</p>	<p>Circus City Swapfest Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Saturday, August 14, 2004 • 7 am—Noon Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area</td><td>\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables</td></tr></table> <p>Steve Schulze, N9UDO • Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (606) 356-2313 • (608) 643-6908/643-6453 http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm,</p>	Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area	\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables	<p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AUCTION Amateur Radio, Computers & Electronics Wed. March 7, 2004, 6:00 p.m. <i>American Legion Post 434</i> <i>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</i> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail: ryatex@aol.com</p>
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Grafton
Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin www.qsl.net/orc/.

Green Bay
GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere. Information: Kevin at kb9sne@yahoo.com.

Green Lake
GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

Hudson
St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

Juneau
ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

Madison
SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu.

Madison
BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

Madison
Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see <http://madisondxclub> for more details.

Madison
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Manitowoc
MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) Additional information: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: w6bsf@arrl.net.

Marinette WI
Menominee MI
Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth Avenue Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome e-mail secretary ke9ad@arrl.net

Medford
Black River Amateur Radio Association Meetings: Normally the first Thursday of each month. Usual meeting time is 7 PM. Most meetings are held at the Taylor County Courthouse. Directions: Those attending should park in the main courthouse parking lot on the east side of the building, and enter using the main courthouse entrance or the sheriff's dept. entrance. Proceed to the lower level of the courthouse using the stairs or elevator. We meet in the "break room" on the lower level, near the Emergency Government office. Talk-in on the 147.15 repeater (114.8 Hz PL, +600 kHz offset) and 146.52 MHz simplex. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

Menomonee Falls
FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

Menomonie WI
Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Walmart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Milwaukee
GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@arrl.net.

Milwaukee
MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> . Email: w9rh@arrl.net.

Monomonie

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonie, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Northeast Area
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/>. Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net.

Oak Creek
SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post #434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. In March and October the meetings are turned into Auction Nights. Swapfest July 6, 2002. The club WEB site is www.qsl.net/wa9txe

Onalaska
RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center. More information: <http://www.qsl.net/wr9arc/> . Email: wr9arc@qsl.net.

QCWA Chapter 162
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

QCWA Chapter 55
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. <mailto:rryokes@execpc.com>. Saturday, October 4, 2003, Watertown Moose Club, Watertown, WI.

Racine
LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Racine
RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Rhineland

Appleton
FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI. Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. PLa-tour428@aol.com Web: <http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>.

Baraboo
BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

Baraboo
YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>.

Dubuque, IA
GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/>. Information or questions to: N0hdc@aol.com.

Eau Claire
EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staats, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email kg9ra@ecarc.org. Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

Fond du Lac
FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: kg9in@fdlhams.org Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

Fort Atkinson
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee,

NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb., and April for dinner business meetings at Ella's Restaurant, Jct. of Hwy. 51 and 70, north side of Woodruff, WI. Talkin on Sayner or Tomahawk repeaters. The Northwoods ARC News is on the club web site. <http://www.freeyellow.com/members7/nwarc>.

Sheboygan
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

Shell Lake
NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesday at the Shell Lake United Methodist Church, Reinhart Drive, Shell Lake, WI. Meeting time: 7 p.m. More information: <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>.

Stevens Point
CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday. of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: jglas776@uwsp.edu. Webpage: www.qsl.net/wb9qfw.

Superior
ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

W.A.R. WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

Watertown
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

Waupaca
WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau
WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600). <http://home.dwave.net/~wvra/>.


West Allis
West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West

Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible. www.warac.org.

West Bend
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

Wisconsin Rapids
WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

Appleton, WI
Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: w9mdp@arrl.net.

Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club.
South Middle School, North East side door 7, 2115 Mitscher Ave, Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Hamfest. Held at Eau Claire Exposition Center, Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire.
Technician, General and Extra Class exams. Walkins welcome.
Examination session coordinator: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY, ka9omy@arrl.net. Telephone: 715-839-6509. www.ecarc.org. w9eau@ecarc.org.

Fond du Lac, WI
Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920-922-3088, schultz74@charter.net.

Mauston, WI
The Juneau county Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a exam session on December 20, 2003, at 9:30 am, at Mauston City Hall, 303 Manison Street, 4th floor Community room. Prior to the session, some of the VE's and members will be having breakfast at Hearty Platter on hwy 82. All are welcome. Contact Ed Wagner AB9FN, at AB9FN@ARRL.net or Mark Miller W9MKM (608)-847-7571), or at W9MKM@yahoo.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Madison, WI
First Saturday monthly: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space Place, 1605 South Park Street, Madison.

Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and the original and a copy of any relevant CSCEs, and a check for \$10.00 made out to the ARRL/VEC. No appointments are necessary to take exams. Exams start promptly at 8 a.m. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwonka, WO9U, at 608-239-3696 (home phone) or sent to wo9u@arrl.net.

Marshfield, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. 6:00 p.m. (walk-in allowed). :pcatopm: St. Joseph's Hospital, 611 St. Joseph Ave., Room 124, Hospice Self Bldg, Marshfield, WI. Contact: Lee A. Olson, (715) 389-888. e-mail: lol-son@t2net.com.

Medford, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Sponsored by the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club (ARRL/VEC affiliated). Testing for all classes, Technician through Extra. Registration starts at 7:30 PM, testing starts at 8:00 PM. Location: the conference room of the Medford Public Library, 400 N. Main St., Medford, WI. From the intersection of State Hwys. 13 and 64, proceed west on Hwy. 64 to Main St. Turn north on Main St. and take Main St. to the library. Talk-in on the 147.15(+600 kHz, 114.8 Hz PL) repeater. Walk-ins welcome, however, if you know you'll be attending, it would be appreciated if you call ahead. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451, phone (715) 748-4054 or e-mail to Mike, N9GHZ, at mds54449@yahoo.com.

Menominee, MI
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is \$10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at jrymer@ez-net.com or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at dxe@cybrzn.com. We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

March 20, November 16, 2004
Menomonie, WI
ARRL/VEC. Location: NEWUW-Stout Communications, Millennium Hall, Broadway & 10th Ave., Menomonie, WI. Contact: James P. Ley, 715-235-3998.

Feb 9, March 15, April 12, 2004
Menomonie WI
University of Wisconsin-Stout Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.uwsarc.org> <<http://www.uwsarc.org/>>) is sponsoring (W5YI-VEC affiliated) Amateur Radio licensing exams. Location: 213 Fryklund Hall, UW-Stout Campus, Menomonie WI. Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm (Walk-ins welcomed) For further information contact:, John Burningham (WB8PUF), 715-232-5610

Milwaukee, WI
Badger Examiners (W5YI VEC) September thru April, every third Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, Milwaukee (use the entrance numbered 5730). Exams are given at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and

all test materials are provided. Fee is \$10.00, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC VEC) Last Saturday, except in March, June, August, and December. In addition, we test at the West Allis RAC Swapfest in January and at Superfest in April. 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road (the door you enter is actually numbered 5730), Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797-MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$8.00 for the exam fee. Walkins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Contact: John G. Kraak, 262-797-6722.

Onalaska, WI
Riverland ARC (ARRL/VEC). Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Street, Onalaska, WI. Contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723, readers@centurytel.net.

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Racine, WI
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Paul B. Smedegaard, N9RGW, 929 Lathrop Ave., Racine, WI 53405-2339. Telephone: (262) 637 4750. or e-mail to smedegaa@wi.net.

VE testing dates in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, for 2003 will be according to the following schedule:

Sheboygan, WI
Saturdays 8:30 AM, 10, 13 September
Tuesdays 6:30 PM, 18 March, 15 July. 18 November
Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032
(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated.

Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ 9 2 0 - 876-2370

N 8 0 2 9 W i l l o w R o a d
k9xj@arrl.net
Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Shell Lake, WI
NORWESCO ARES/RACES (ARRL/VEC). Washburn County Law Enforcement Center, lower level meeting room, 421 Hwy 63, Shell Lake. Walk-ins allowed. This is for all classes of license. Persons wishing to upgrade an existing license should bring a photocopy of it to submit. Also need a photo ID to prove who you are. The fee is \$10.00. Contact: Richard J. Eckenrode, 715-466-4109. Email: cen34109@centurytel.net. Web Site: fp1.centurytel.net/norwesco/.

Tomahawk, WI
Tomahawk ARRL VE Team (ARRL/VEC). Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633, dcollins@newnorth.net.

Waukesha, WI
Saturday, January 3, 2004. Held at AMF Waukesha Lanes, Near EXPO. (WARAC Mid-winter Swapfest.

St. Paul, MN
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. Test Site: St. Paul Technical College, 235 Marshall Ave., St Paul, MN. Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108. www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html.

Rockford, IL
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail: WB9QYV@aol.com.

Some of you might need a good chuckle today...

Here are 14 actual error messages seen on the computer screens in Japan, where some are written in Haiku. Aren't these better than "your computer has performed an illegal operation"?

1. The Web site you seek cannot be located, but countless more exist.
2. Chaos reigns within. Reflect, repent, and reboot. Order shall return.
3. Program aborting: Close all that you have worked on. You ask far too much.
4. Windows NT crashed. I am the Blue Screen of Death. No one hears your screams.
5. Yesterday it worked. Today it is not working. Windows is like that.
6. Your file was so big. It might be very useful. But now it is gone.
7. Stay the patient course. Of little worth is your ire. The network is down.
8. A crash reduces your expensive computer to a simple stone.
9. Three things are certain: Death, taxes and lost data. Guess which has occurred?
10. You step in the stream, but the water has moved on. This page is not here.
11. Out of memory. We wish to hold the whole sky, but we never will.
12. Having been erased, the document you're seeking must now be retyped.
13. Serious error. All shortcuts have disappeared.
14. Screen. Mind. Both are blank.